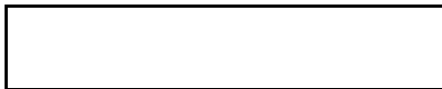


A thorough area study, such as the recent Southeast Asia Area Program, contributes considerably to analyst effectiveness. A broad knowledge of an area increases the speed of the analyst and allows him to meet his problems with more ease.

The greater part of the Southeast Asia Area Program which I attended was relevant to my work. The portion on Geography was least relevant; I felt this subject was too narrow. A study of Geopolitics of Southeast Asia would have provided a more useful tool for the analyst.

I regretted that the course did not run for six weeks as originally scheduled; I am unable to comment on the adequacy of the entire course, since I attended a relatively short time.

At the sessions I attended there was little discussion, although the opportunity was given to everyone to take part. I feel that discussions and general interest on the part of the students would be stimulated if the students were required to do at least some outside work. Collateral reading and/or the preparation of brief papers might be a logical way to make the student an active participant in the Program.



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*27 August 52*

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